

## **"Practical Wisdom from the Epistle of James"**

Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke (Session 1 – 1/10/21)

James 1:1-18

### **Background Information**

**Author:** Most likely the brother of Jesus and the leader of the Jerusalem Council. Martyred in 62 AD

**Written:** Most scholars date it to early 50s AD. Possibly earliest of NT writings

**Recipients:** Jewish Christian believers scattered to Phoenicia, Cyprus, Syrian Antioch

**Distinctive Characteristics:** Jewish in nature; good deeds connected to faith that works; connections to Sermon on the Mount; similarity to OT wisdom literature

### **Growth through Trials - James 1:1-11**

#### A. Read James 1: 2-8

- How does James encourage people to respond to trials? Why?
- How can a person gain wisdom to deal with problems?
- What is the difficulty with doubting?
- How has your relationship with God changed as you have gone through trials and difficulties?
- In what ways does this passage relate to your present problems and frustrations?

#### B. Read James 1: 9-11

- How do you find joy in your troubles?

## **Discerning Temptation - James 1:12 – 18**

### A. Read James 1:12-15

- The three stages of temptation: desire, sin, death

### B. Read James 1: 16 – 18

- How does James explain the source of our temptation?
- Why is it tempting for some people to blame God as the source of temptation?
- What tools do we have to use to help us remain strong against temptation?
- How does knowing that God is good and gives good things encourage you to fight against the sin in your life?
- How does the testimony of other believers help you in your fight against sin?
- Is temptation itself sin? How are these two things related?
- List some skills/tools you have learned today to help you depend more on God for the power to overcome sin.